A Monthly Report from The Conference Board

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SCOREBOARD

The Conference Board

R4105-64

MAY, 1986

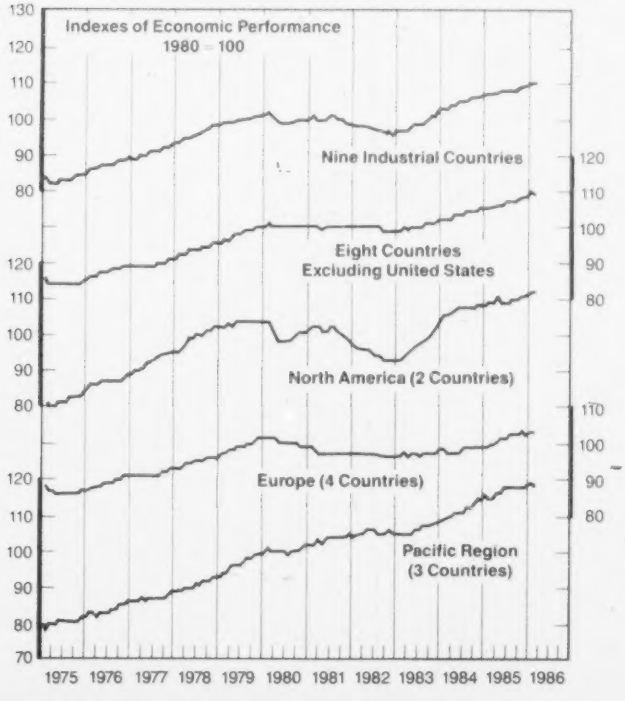
SUMMARY

The world business cycle continues to point toward moderately higher levels of economic activity. There are, however, significant differences among countries in the pace of expansion. Growth rates in the leading indexes for West Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan and Australia have slumped to one percent or less. For the other 5 industrial countries, the latest leading-index growth rates range upward from 5 percent in the United States and France, 7 percent in Canada and Italy, to 13 percent in Taiwan, R.O.C. Taiwan has clearly broken out of its lethargy of the last year; it's economic performance index registered a growth rate of 10 percent in March. Elsewhere the expansion in output, employment and other measures of economic performance is continuing at a modest pace. For the 9 countries as a group, 3 percent growth has prevailed for 9 consecutive months.

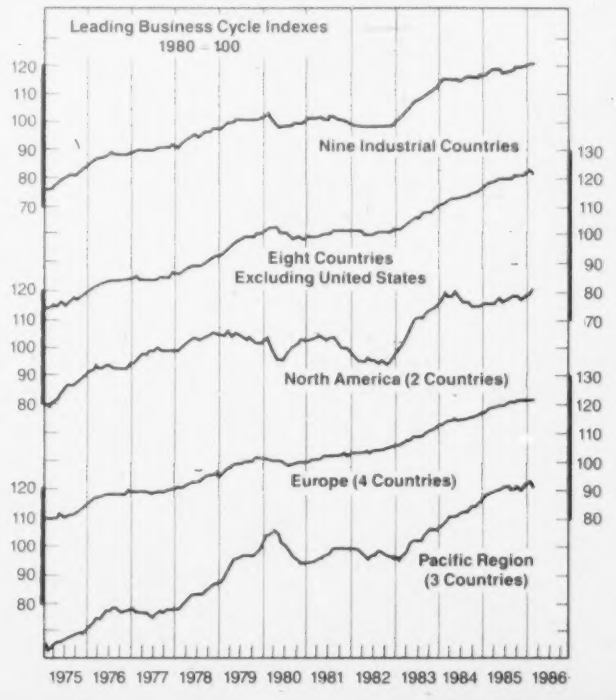
	Ten-year Growth Rate 1969-79	*Indexes of Economic Performance Growth Rates**			*Leading Business Cycle Indexes Growth Rates**			*Current Reading on the Cycle*	*Latest Month Covered*
		6 mos. ago	*3 mos. ago*	*Latest month*	*6 mos. ago*	*3 mos. ago*	*Latest month*		
	annual rates, percent								
9 countries	4	3	3	3	4	3	4	Expansion continuing	Feb.
8 countries ex. U.S.	4	4	4	4	5	4	2	Expansion continuing	Feb.
North America (2)	3	3	3	3	2	1	6	Expansion continuing	Feb.
Europe (4)	3	4	4	4	5	5	2	Expansion continuing	Feb.
Pacific Region (3)	5	4	3	3	5	3	1	Expansion continuing	Feb.
United States	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	Expansion continuing	Mar.
Canada	4	5	5	5	7	6	7	Expansion continuing	Feb.
West Germany	3	5	5	4	6	7	–2	Expansion continuing	Feb.
France	4	4	6	4	8	5	5	Expansion continuing	Feb./Jan.
United Kingdom	2	2	2	2	1	0	1	Expansion stalling	Feb.
Italy	3	3	1	1	7	6	7	Expansion stalling, leaders strong	Jan.
Japan	5	4	2	3	3	2	1	Expansion continuing	Feb.
Australia	4	7	10	5	15	4	–1	Expansion continuing	Feb.
Taiwan, R.O.C.	10	–1	2	10	8	12	13	Expansion continuing	Mar.

* Ratio of current month's index to average index over the preceding 12 months, expressed as a compound annual rate.

Where We Are


Indexes of Economic Performance
1980 = 100
Nine Industrial Countries
Eight Countries Excluding United States
North America (2 Countries)
Europe (4 Countries)
Pacific Region (3 Countries)
1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986

Where We're Headed


Leading Business Cycle Indexes
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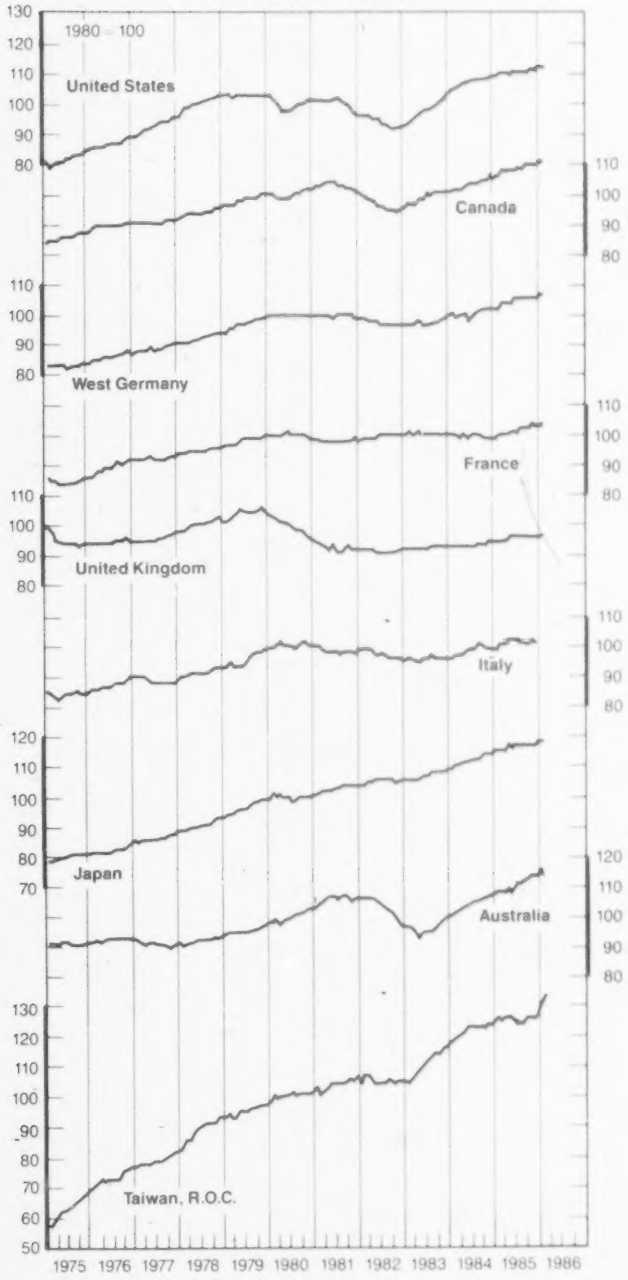
70th Anniversary

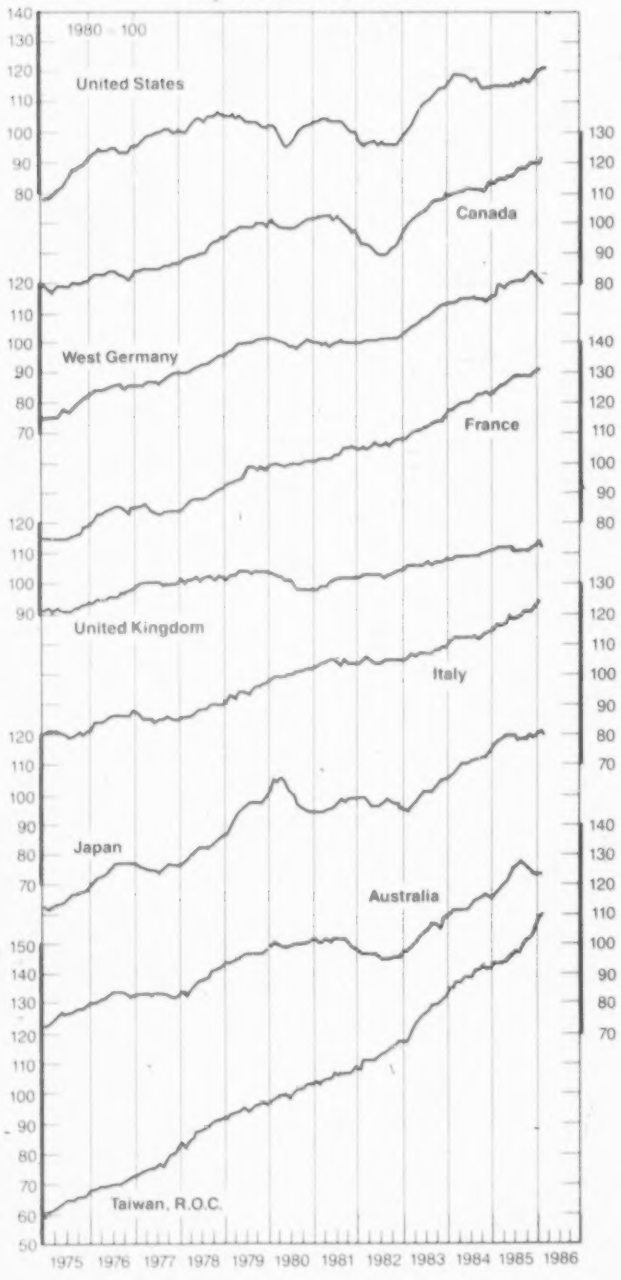
Where We Are

Indexes of Economic Performance



Where We're Headed

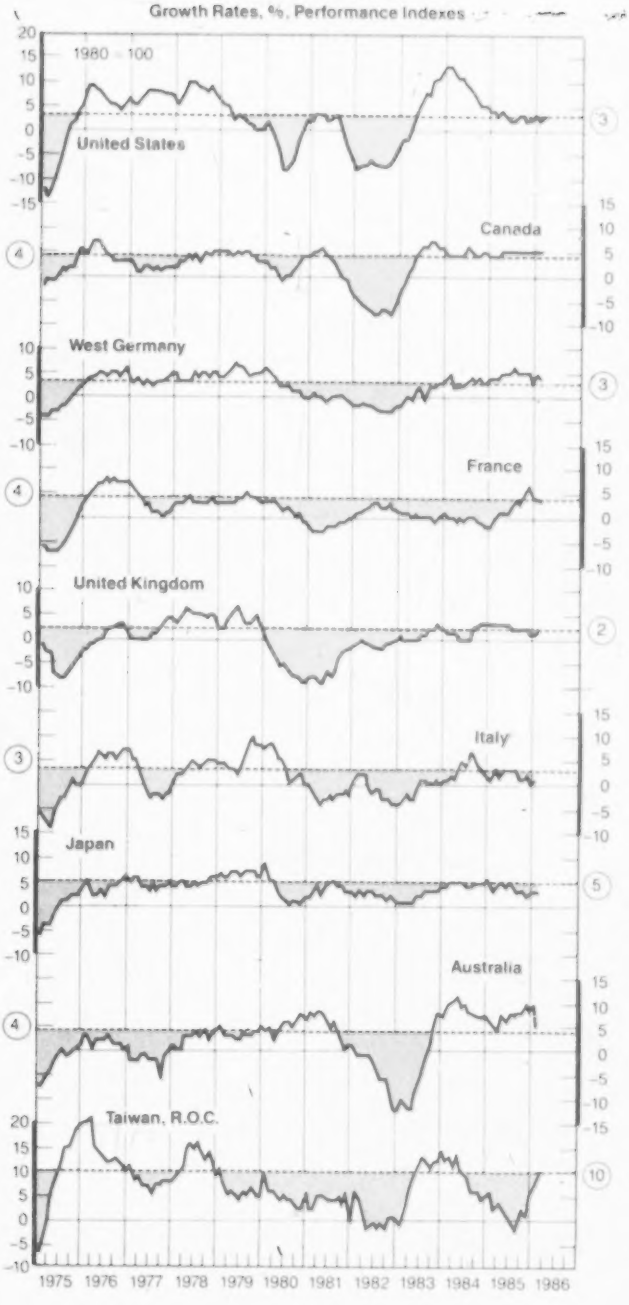
Leading Business Cycle Indexes



Sources: CIBCR and The Conference Board

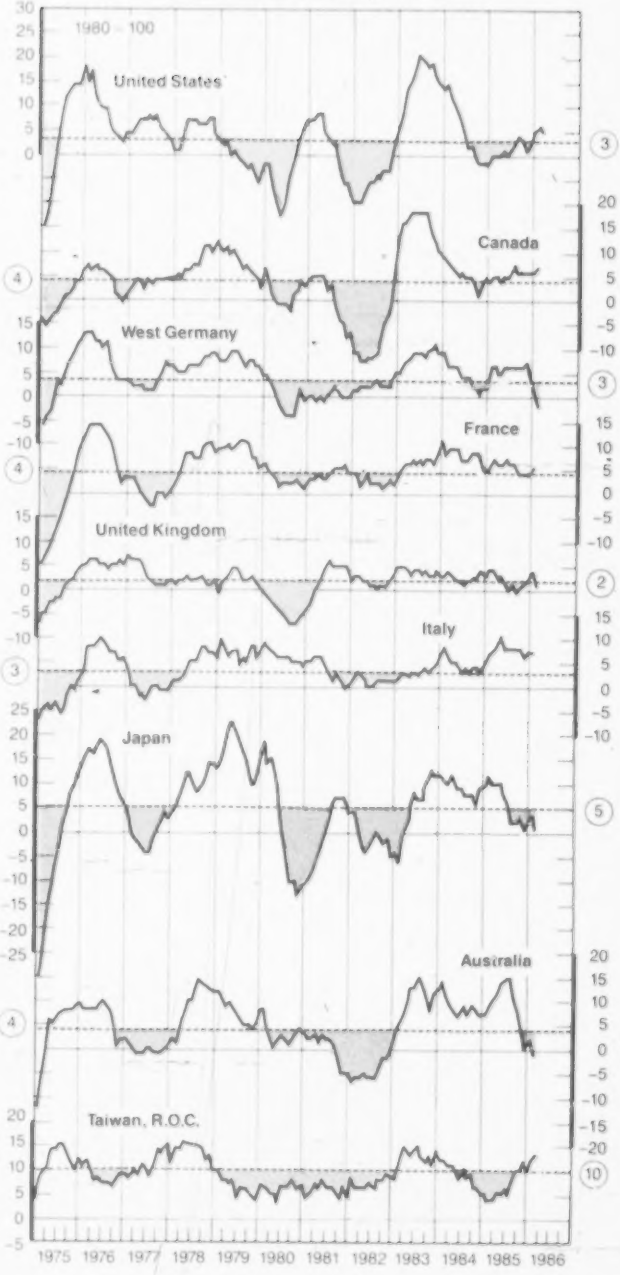
Where We Are

Growth Rates, %, Performance Indexes



Where We're Headed

Growth Rates, %, Leading Indexes



Note Horizontal dashed lines are average rates for 1969-79 in the index and in Real GNP.

Sources: CIBCR and The Conference Board

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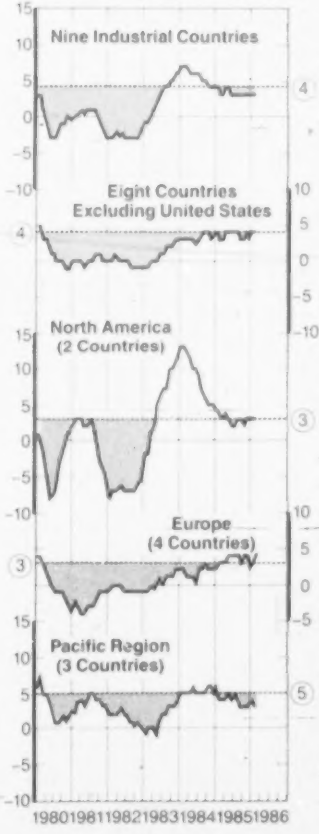
INDEXES, NINE COUNTRIES, 1984-86

		U.S.		Canada		West Germany		France		U.K.		Italy		Japan		Australia		Taiwan, R.O.C.	
		Indexes, 1980 = 100																	
		Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.
Jan.	85	109	115	105	114	102	116	99	123	95	111	99	115	115	116	107	117	126	144
Feb.	85	109	116	106	114	102	119	99	124	95	112	100	116	115	117	108	118	127	144
Mar.	85	109	116	106	115	103	119	100	125	95	112	101	117	115	118	108	120	125	144
Apr.	85	110	116	107	115	104	119	100	126	95	112	101	118	115	119	108	121	126	145
May	85	110	116	108	116	104	120	100	127	96	112	102	120	117	119	110	123	126	146
June	85	109	116	108	116	104	120	100	128	96	112	102	119	116	119	109	125	125	147
July	85	110	117	108	117	106	121	101	129	96	111	102	119	117	119	111	127	125	148
Aug.	85	110	117	109	118	106	121	102	129	96	111	101	120	117	118	111	128	124	148
Sept.	85	110	118	109	118	106	122	102	129	96	111	101	121	117	118	112	127	124	151
Oct.	85	110	117	110	119	106	123	102	129	96	111	101	121	117	120	113	126	126	152
Nov.	85	111	117	110	120	106	124	104	129	96	111	102	121	117	119	114	125	126	153
Dec.	85	111	119	110	120	106	122	103	130	96	113	101	123	118	120	114	124	127	156
Jan.	86	112	120	111	120	107	121	103	131	96	114		124	118	121	116	124	130	156
Feb.	86	112	121	111	122	107	120	104		97	112			118	120	114	124	131	158
Mar.	86	112	121															133	160
		Growth Rates, Percent																	
Jan.	85	4	-2	4	4	4	3	0	5	3	3	1	4	6	10	7	7	5	5
Feb.	85	4	-2	4	5	4	6	1	5	2	4	3	7	4	11	6	8	6	5
Mar.	85	3	0	4	5	4	6	2	7	3	4	4	7	3	10	5	10	2	4
Apr.	85	4	0	5	4	5	5	3	7	3	3	2	8	4	10	4	11	3	5
May	85	3	0	5	5	5	5	3	7	3	3	3	10	5	10	7	12	2	5
June	85	2	0	5	5	5	6	3	8	3	2	3	7	4	8	6	14	1	5
July	85	2	2	5	5	6	6	4	8	2	0	3	7	5	6	7	15	-1	8
Aug.	85	3	2	5	7	5	6	4	7	2	1	1	7	4	3	7	15	-2	5
Sept.	85	3	4	5	6	5	6	3	6	2	0	1	8	3	3	8	11	-1	8
Oct.	85	2	2	5	6	5	6	4	5	2	0	1	6	3	4	8	8	2	10
Nov.	85	2	1	5	6	5	7	6	4	2	0	2	6	2	2	10	4	1	10
Dec.	85	3	4	5	6	3	3	4	5	1	2	0	7	3	3	8	1	2	12
Jan.	86	3	5	5	6	5	0	4	5	1	4	1	7	3	4	10	2	6	10
Feb.	86	2	6	5	7	4	-2	4		2	1			3	1	5	-1	8	12
Mar.	86	3	5															10	13
		Ten Year Annual Growth Rate, Percent																	
1969-79		3	3	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	3	2	2	5	5	4	4	10	10

		9 Countries		8 Countries ex. U.S.		North America (2)		Europe (4)		Pacific Region (3)	
		Indexes, 1980 = 100									
		Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.
Jan.	85	106	116	105	117	108	115	99	117	115	117
Feb.	85	107	117	105	118	109	116	99	118	114	118
Mar.	85	107	118	105	119	109	116	100	119	114	119
Apr.	85	107	118	106	119	110	116	100	119	115	120
May	85	108	118	106	120	109	116	101	120	116	120
June	85	108	118	106	120	109	116	101	120	116	121
July	85	108	119	107	120	109	117	101	120	117	121
Aug.	85	108	119	107	120	110	117	102	121	117	120
Sept.	85	108	120	107	121	110	118	102	121	117	120
Oct.	85	109	120	108	121	110	117	102	121	117	121
Nov.	85	109	120	108	121	111	117	103	122	117	120
Dec.	85	109	120	108	122	111	119	102	122	118	121
Jan.	86	110	121	108	122	112	120	103	122	118	123
Feb.	86	110	121	109	121	112	121	103	122	118	121
		Growth Rates, Percent									
Jan.	85	4	2	4	6	4	-2	2	4	6	9
Feb.	85	3	3	3	7	4	-1	3	5	4	10
Mar.	85	3	4	3	7	3	0	3	6	4	10
Apr.	85	4	4	4	7	4	0	3	6	4	10
May	85	4	4	4	7	3	0	4	6	5	10
June	85	3	4	4	7	2	0	4	6	4	9
July	85	3	4	4	6	2	2	4	5	5	7
Aug.	85	3	4	4	5	3	2	4	5	4	5
Sept.	85	3	4	3	5	3	4	3	5	3	4
Oct.	85	3	4	3	5	2	2	4	5	3	5
Nov.	85	3	3	4	4	3	1	4	5	3	3
Dec.	85	3	4	3	4	3	4	2	4	3	3
Jan.	86	3	4	4	4	3	5	3	3	4	4
Feb.	86	3	4	4	2	3	6	4	2	3	1
		Ten Year Annual Growth Rate, Percent									
1969-79		4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	5	5

Where We Are

Growth Rates, %, Performing Indexes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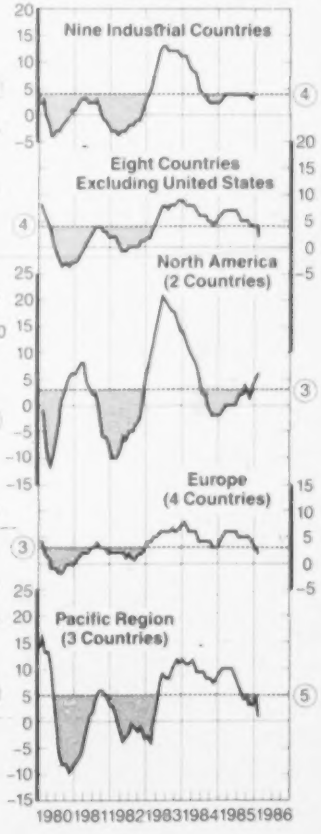
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